

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
April 11, 2018
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey and Jay Lesynski. Justin Dutcher and Dan May were absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2018, meeting as submitted. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. House Float Ordinance

DEP has found the floating homes at the Yankee Landing Marina to be in violation of the marina's Chapter 91 license. A fine would be issued if the structures were to be placed back in the water. DEP is taking action to prohibit floating homes throughout the Commonwealth. The Harbor Commission will continue to work to pass its local ordinance. The draft ordinance is currently before the City Council planning and safety subcommittee.

4. Webcam Proposal

Rich Fontaine attended the meeting to present a proposal from Crossroads Bait and Tackle to install a webcam on the north jetty. The camera would promote safety by providing boaters with information on conditions at the mouth of the river. DCR approves of the proposal and suggested the kiosk in Lot 1 at the Salisbury Beach State Reservation could be used to communicate with the webcam. Captain Shea of the Coast Guard is also amenable to the plan. The Commission members were in favor of the proposal but had two concerns: 1) setting a precedent by allowing one business to install a camera and 2) ensuring the camera did not create a liability for the City. A disclaimer would be necessary stating the webcam is not monitored and should not be used as a tool for navigation. Further discussions will take place after the owner of the tower has been identified.

5. Watersheet Application

The applicant did not attend the meeting. The item was tabled because the notification of the abutters could not be confirmed. Jamie Knapp will distribute the guidelines for public hearings by email. Bob Dow suggested past watersheet applications be reviewed for compliance.

6. Interviews of Candidates

Letters of interest have been received from three members of the community who wish to fill the open position on the Commission. Todd Chase was not able to attend the meeting. Kevin Bannigan was introduced at a previous meeting. He said he has lived in Newburyport for 20 years. He has been a salt-water boater for 35 years and served on the board of the Maritime Society for seven years. Ron Thurlow is a lifetime resident of Newburyport. He is

Newburyport Harbor Commission
April 11, 2018

a boater and kayaker and a member of the North End Boat Club. He will be retiring shortly and would have time to devote to the work of the Commission. He is experienced in running large groups with big budgets. He said a balance must be achieved between protecting the river and allowing its use. He spoke of the need to dredge the mouth of the river to make it safe for boaters.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- the water came over the bulkhead during the recent storm. The building held up well. The patrol boats were moved to the emergency management facility. A great deal of erosion occurred on Plum Island.
- the welds on the strong arms failed and new brackets have been made.
- the cameras showing the river, Plum Island parking lot, boardwalk and Cashman Park are operating.
- waterways and mooring permits have been sent out. The on-line system has been brought up to date.
- summer office hours have begun and the restrooms are open.
- he is conducting interviews for summer employees.
- he has purchased a Mule and will be obtaining a new shed.
- a \$200,000 grant was received from the Army Corp. for design services for dredging at the mouth. More funds should follow next year.
- the docks are scheduled to be put in between April 20 and 23.

8. General Business

The Commission members approved the donation to a City fundraising event of a one-year parking pass for Plum Island.

9. Upcoming Meetings

The Harbormasters Facility will be open to the public on Thursday evenings during the summer months. The members discussed holding the meetings in a different location or changing their dates. Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month on a trial basis. The next meetings will be held on May 2 and June 6.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to enter into an executive session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the candidates for the open position and to not reconvene the open session. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Casson; yes, Armstrong; yes, Dow; yes, Knapp; yes, Kealey; yes and Lesynski; yes.